

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3353
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
SHORTAGE OF HELICOPTERS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of helicopters in the army which can fly at very high altitudes and lowest temperature;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which these helicopters are likely to be procured and provided to Army?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): Though Army is not deficient of helicopters for reconnaissance and observation role in high altitude area, these helicopters are old and inadequate for the present operational requirements. There is a plan for replacement of these helicopters by the end of the 12th Plan. For the light utility role, the Advanced Light Helicopters, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, are gradually being inducted into the Army.